



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District

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# Yankee Engineer

December 2003

## Coastal America

### New England District receives award for restoration work

*The New England District and its Coastal America partners have been recognized for taking another step forward in improving the environment. The Smelt Hill Dam Restoration project was honored with a Coastal America award during a presentation, Nov. 14. The ceremony was held at the Audubon Society's Gilsland Farm in Falmouth, Maine.*

The New England District and its many Coastal America partners were responsible for removing the dam, which was completed on Nov. 25, 2002. Many agencies and individuals were recognized along with the New England District for the success of the project.

John Paul Woodley, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works,

represented the National Principals of the Coastal America partnership during the awards ceremony.

Col. Thomas Koning, District Engineer, also attended the ceremony. "This is another of our New England aquatic ecosystem system restorations that are making tangible improvements to the landscape ecology of the region," he said.

Virginia Tippie, Director of the Coastal America Program, presided over the event. The Smelt Hill Dam removal project is the largest in a series of proactive dam removals in New England, according to Ms. Tippie. "This is a good example of how identifying ecological priorities to the Coastal America team allows the projects to be best matched to appropriate federal programs for implementation," she said.

Other speakers included Mr. Woodley; Bill Vail, Chief of Staff for Senator Susan Collins; Juliet Browne, Verill & Dana, Maine Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership Board; and Pat Keliher, Coastal Conservation Association.

The Smelt Hill Dam was once used for hydroelectric power generation until generating facilities were severely damaged during an October 1996 flood. The fish passage facility at the dam was also damaged to the point that it was non-functional. As a result, anadromous fish species were unable to freely bypass the dam.

Work on the restoration project entailed removing the 151-foot long, 31-foot wide and 15-foot high stone filled timber crib dam and its appurtenant structures.



Photo by Mark McInerney

Larry Oliver (left) describes the restoration project to Col. Thomas Koning, Virginia Tippie, John Paul Woodley, and John Kennelly during a site tour held prior to the awards ceremony.

*Continued on page 6*

# Yankee Voices

Tyler Godin  
Regulatory Division



## Sympathy

...to the family of Contracting retiree, **Cosmo M. Votolato**, who passed away, Nov. 24. The World War II veteran was a purchasing agent for the Corps in New England until he retired.

...to the family of Construction retiree, **Flavio Leonin**, who passed away Dec. 12. Mr. Leonin was part of the old EPA Support Branch. Memorials in Flavio's name may be made to the American Stroke Association, 20 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701.

...to **Tim Dugan**, Public Affairs, on the passing of his father, **Thomas J. Dugan**, Dec. 13. Donations in Mr. Dugan's name may be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, 902 Westpoint Pkwy, Suite 300, Westlake, OH 44145.

## Thank you from Central Command

*(Editor's Note: Gen. John P. Abizaid, Commander of the United States Central Command, sent the following letter to Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, Chief of Engineers, in appreciation for the Corps' efforts in Iraq. Lt. Gen. Flowers also extended his thanks to his employees around the world. "I also want to thank everyone in the Corps for the work you do every day in support of the global war on terrorism," he said. "You make me proud.")*

Thank you for the support you and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers team have contributed to the reconstruction of Iraq. In particular, I commend the spirit, dedication, and commitment of the more than 100 men and women who deployed to Iraq as part of Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity (TF RIE).

Within days of establishing the TFRIE mission, your experts began to flow into Iraq and immediately impacted delivery of electricity to the Iraqi people. By leveraging your existing contract mechanisms and technical expertise, the Corps ensured the near term power generation objective.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been instrumental in the repair and rehabilitation of the Iraqi oil and electric infrastructure. The contributions of your team will have lasting effects on the everyday lives of the Iraqi people.

Please extend my good wishes and appreciation to all of the Corps of Engineers teams who have contributed to the betterment of the Iraqi people.

John P. Abizaid  
General, USA

## Cards for sick soldiers

If you have a few moments for a kind act, consider sending a card to a wounded soldier at Walter Reed Hospital at the address below:

Wounded Soldier  
c/o American Red Cross  
Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
69900 Georgia Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

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# Message from the Chief of Engineers:

Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers sends holiday greetings

*The holidays are a time for remembering others and for giving to others.*

*This year, I want us to remember that there are many in our Corps of Engineers family who are serving in harm's way in Afghanistan and Iraq. They are giving an expensive gift...willingly sacrificing their holiday with their families so that others who lived for decades under tyrannical rule might have a future of safety and freedom.*



I'm enormously proud of them. They volunteered for an important cause, and they are doing excellent work under difficult circumstances.

Of course, Afghanistan and Iraq are not the only places where our Corps team members will spend the holidays. Our people are at work in 91 countries worldwide, and many of them will also

new facilities for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, this year Corps people have continued making a difference in America and in the world.

The holidays are also a time to look to the future, and the Corps of Engineers' future is bright. The plans for USACE 2012 have been released and are now being implemented. People throughout the Corps are learning the basics of the Project Management Business Process, cornerstone of the Corps' new way of doing business. And Corps people are

be separated from their loved ones during the holidays.

Please take a few moments during these holidays to remember those in the Corps family who are serving overseas. If you are acquainted with some of them, please mail them a card or send them an e-mail letting them know that you're thinking about them, and that their service is appreciated.

I have also served overseas during the holidays under difficult conditions, and you can trust me on this...in the situations that our people face in Afghanistan and Iraq and elsewhere, simple gifts like those will be treasured.

For all of us, this has been a busy year. As in years past, the Corps of Engineers has taken part in events that made headlines, and made a difference.

When the space shuttle Columbia burned up during re-entry, Corps people took part in the search in Texas and other states to find debris that helped piece together what happened to the spacecraft.

During Supertyphoon Pongsona on Guam, Hurricane Isabel on the East Coast, and the wildfires in California, Corps emergency teams were on the scene to fight the disaster, and to clean up afterwards.

Whether it is helping clear landmines in Afghanistan, or advising the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources in re-routing water to preserve the Marsh Arabs' way of life, or providing

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**'Please take a few moments during these holidays to remember those in the Corps family who are serving overseas. If you are acquainted with some of them, please mail them a card or send them an e-mail letting them know that you're thinking about them, and that their service is appreciated.'**

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- Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, Chief of Engineers

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learning the concepts of competitive sourcing, which will be our part in the President's Management Agenda.

These actions and others will give the Corps of Engineers the best possible gift...the ability to improve our service to the American people.

As always, I encourage all of you to take time off during this holiday season. Relax and have fun, and especially take time to enjoy your families.

And my family and I wish you all a safe and joyous holiday season, and a happy, prosperous New Year.

Essayons!

ROBERT B. FLOWERS  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

# Long Island Sound Disposal

## Public hearing held for comments, concerns, on draft report

*Officials at the New England District and the Environmental Protection Agency extended the public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of Dredged Material Disposal Sites in Central and Western Long Island Sound.*

In order to gather more comments and concerns from the public, the two federal agencies held a public hearing, Dec. 10, at the Wang Center in Stony Brook, New York.

Over 100 citizens, to include U.S. Senators and Congressmen and their representatives, attended the hearing to make their feelings known. Approximately 33 people spoke at the hearing both for and against the proposed alternative disposal sites named in the document.

In the opening minutes of the hearing, Larry Rosenberg, Chief, Public Affairs, tried to dispel rumors of dumping toxic materials into the sound. "Despite what you may have been reading in the newspapers, neither the EPA nor the Corps have planned or will plan in the future to dispose of any unsuitable material at any of the sites that are being looked at under the NEPA Environmental Impact Statement," he said. "I should point out that the government has made no final decisions regarding the final outcome of this very public process."

As hearing officer, Melville Cote, Jr., of the Environmental Protection Agency, stressed that public comments and concerns are an important part of the EIS. "We are here today to present information on the draft EIS that evaluates disposal options for the western and central regions of Long Island Sound and to solicit feedback on this document and the federal action it proposes in the form of oral or written comments," he said.

In a written statement read into the record by her representative, Connecticut Congresswoman Rosa

DeLauro supported the document. "Maintenance dredging is necessary to sustain the immense navigational, commercial, and recreational uses of Long Island Sound," she said.

"It is equally necessary to ensure that these needs are not met at the expense of the environment of the Sound. The recommendations made in this Draft Environmental Impact State-

Senator Joseph Lieberman, of Connecticut, also supported the report.

"Given my long-standing commitment to the protection of Long Island Sound, I am naturally cautious about any plan that could potentially have a negative impact on the health of the Sound," he said in a written statement. "However, after careful

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## 'Maintenance dredging is necessary to sustain the immense navigational, commercial, and recreational uses of Long Island Sound.'

- Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro

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ment (DEIS) provide reasonable options to address the unique range of interests in the Sound without causing harm to this national treasure."

The DEIS was prepared by the EPA in cooperation with the New England District. The document is consistent with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act, and the Clean Water Act to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the designation of open-water dredged material disposal sites in Long Island Sound and alternatives to such designation.

The report was prepared in response to the need for a long-term disposal site for dredged material from rivers and harbors in the central and western regions of Long Island Sound.

consideration of EPA's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of Dredged Material Disposal Sites in Central and Western Long Island Sound, I strongly support the EPA's conclusion that any potential impacts to the Sound's marine environment associated with dredged material disposal at the historical utilized Central Long Island Sound and Eastern Long Island Sound Disposal Sites would be minimal and could be mitigated with appropriate site management."

Two of the sites, the Western Long Island Sound and the Central Long Island Sound are both active dredged material disposal sites. The alternative sites off Bridgeport and Milford are both inactive historic dredged material disposal sites.

"I join the entire Connecticut del-

egation in strongly supporting EPA's Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which recognizes the unique value and range of interests in the Sound, while taking important steps to help protect it," wrote Congressman Christopher Shays.

Not everyone favors the document. Congressman Timothy Bishop of New York personally spoke against the project and introduced legislation during the meeting that would stop any dumping in Long Island Sound if passed.

"We need to go back to the drawing board and consider long-term alternatives other than massive dumping into the Long Island Sound," he said. "As a member of the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment, I am willing to play any role I can to look at alternatives and protect the Sound. I understand that these dredging projects need to go forward, and Long Island Sound certainly benefits from dredging. However, I cannot sit idly by and allow this process to move forward unchecked."

"The Long Island Sound is one of only a few places in our great nation deserving of federal designation as a National Estuarine Sanctuary. I implore you

to take this opportunity to end the abusive use of an 'emergency exemption' and not to make an even greater mistake

by allowing this exemption to swallow the rule and make permanent mockery of the intent of Congress and our states to protect this critical ecosystem and extraordinary ecologic and economic national asset," wrote Steve Englebright, Member of Assembly, 4th District, state of New York.

New York resident and president of the Concerned Citizens of Montauk Group told the panel that it didn't make sense to dump the materials at the proposed locations. "A century of heavy industrial pollution doesn't wash away," he said. "It's down there. It makes no sense to disturb it, much less dump it into open water."

Other New York politicians who were represented at the hearing but did not speak on the record were Congr. Steve Israel and Senator Charles Shumer.

The comment period for the public to provide input into the Draft Environmental Impact Statement was extended until Dec. 15.

After the comment period

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**'We need to go back to the drawing board and consider long-term alternatives other than massive dumping into the Long Island Sound.'**

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**- Congressman Timothy Bishop**

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closed, all comments and concerns were evaluated and will be reflected in the final environmental impact statement.

## Corps Releases Draft Mitigation Guidance

by John Emmert  
Public Affairs

The New England District has drafted mitigation guidance to help evaluate permit applications. The guidance includes a checklist and is used to review all mitigation for unavoidable impacts to wetlands and waters required by Corps permits issued under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

On Dec. 24, 2002, the Department of the Army (Civil Works), Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Commerce, Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Transportation signed a National Wetlands Mitigation Action Plan (MAP). In accordance with the MAP requirements, the Corps has adapted the guidelines recommended by the National Resource Council of the National Academy of Sciences to the Section 404 program for creating or restoring self-sustaining wetlands. The checklist and guidance can be found at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil> under Regulatory/Permitting.

Preliminary review of the guidance indicates that: 1) no environmental impact statement will be required; 2) implementation will not affect any species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; and 3) no historic resources considered eligible or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places will be affected.

The Corps of Engineers will seek public comment on the checklist and guidance until Jan. 15, 2004.

## Combating Dry Skin

Winter can be tough on your skin, with low humidity, heavy clothes, and hot showers or baths leaving you dry and itchy.

Here are some tips for combating dry winter skin from the American Academy of Dermatology:

- Bath or shower in lukewarm – not hot – water. Hot water removes more natural oil from the skin.

- Limit your showers to 10-15 minutes.

- Add bath oil to the water when you take a hot bath.

- Use mild soaps. Avoid deodorant types, which are more drying to the skin.

- Apply moisturizers to skin immediately after a bath or shower while your skin is still wet. Putting on a cream, ointment, or lotion helps trap the water on the upper layers of the skin, decreasing dryness and itching.

- Apply lotions before bedtime to allow them to penetrate the skin overnight.

- Use petroleum jelly on problem areas to seal in moisture and heal very dry skin.

- After washing your hands, put on hand cream to seal in moisture.

- Buy a humidifier to keep the humidity in your home higher during the winter.

- Drink six to eight glasses of water a day to stay hydrated. Avoid caffeine, which accelerates fluid loss.

*(Ideas Unlimited)*

## District receives award for restoration work

*Continued from page 1*

Removal of the dam restored a natural ecosystem with important fishery and recreational values.

The project has improved water quality and restored natural habitat and fish passages to the seven miles of the Presumpscot River closest to the ocean, as well as positively affecting the many miles of tributaries downstream of West Brook.

Fisheries biologists are estimating that the dam removal will reestablish runs of three fish species in the thousands. These fish provide food for other fish as well as many species of birds and aquatic fur-bearing mammals.

The New England District awarded a \$245,105 contract to A.C.T. Abatement Corporation of Lawrence, Mass. The dam removal was conducted under the Corps Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program. The project was cost shared between the

New England District and the Maine Department of Marine Resources.

The Coastal Conservation Association of Maine and the Maine Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership assisted the Department of Marine Resources with the financial requirements for the project.

New England District employees who received a certificate and a letter of thanks from President George W. Bush for their work on the project were Robert DeSista, Mary Donovan, Timothy Dugan, Mary Dunn, Jennifer Flanagan, David Goodrich, William Hubbard, Leslie Jacobs, James Larry, Randal Lecuyer, Kenneth Levitt, Raimo Liias, Christopher Lindsay, Thomas Marcotte, Erik Matthews, Mark McInerney, James Morocco, William Mullen, Maureen Murray, Rick Orłowski, Edward O'Leary, Lawrence Oliver, Marcos Paiva, Robert Patev, Sally Rigione, Steve Simmer, and Brian Waz.



Photo by Mark McInerney

*Photo looking upstream on the Presumpscot River. The only trace of the Smelt Hill Dam is the rock protected embankment on the left.*

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## Randall receives award for environmental support

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by John Emmert  
Public Affairs

*Todd Randall, a marine ecologist in Engineering/Planning, received a Coastal America 2003 Partnership Award on Oct. 29 for his work on the OSV Anderson Partnership Team. The Coastal America award recognized Todd's contribution toward the restoration and protection of our Nation's coastal environment.*

Todd's team brought together federal agencies, state and local government, aquaria marine educators, high school students and teachers, and corporations to provide educational opportunities aboard a marine research vessel. Teachers and students, while aboard the vessel, experienced marine science and ocean management issues up close.

"I was psyched that the program was recognized for its contributions. It really is a valuable tool for ex-

posing a lot of people (directly and indirectly) to the coastal environment," Todd said. "It was great for all the folks that gave their time and effort to this project to be acknowledged for making a difference."

He received a letter from the President of the United States commending his contribution.

Todd believes that having even a basic knowledge of coastal systems leads to understanding the need for coastal protection and restoration. He volunteered when Bill Hubbard, Chief of the Evaluation Branch, mentioned the project. Having extensive marine ecology experience, Todd explained and demonstrated the use of benthic sampling equipment. Benthic sam-

pling involves examining the organisms living inside mud samples.

Todd demonstrated to students and teachers the mud screening process, the critter picking process, and even identified some basic organisms.

Bill Hubbard said, "It is always impor-

tant to participate in forums where teachers and students can experience the types of careers that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers offers. Todd is a great example of a Marine Ecologist that can inspire students to pursue a marine sciences career. The letter of recognition from the President



(from left) EPA - New England Regional Administrator Bob Varney, Todd Randall, and the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Interior Lynne Scarlett at the awards ceremony.

was well deserved."

The OSV Anderson was launched in 1966 as a Naval Patrol Gunboat. In 1979 the ship was converted for use by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA scientists now use the Anderson to gather information needed for ocean and coastal programs. Since 1998, the EPA has set aside a few days each summer for students to conduct science projects.

Federal agencies involved in the OSV Anderson program include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Coast Guard, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

# Dredging up the past . . .



*Col. Daniel M. Wilson, Division Engineer, and a ceremony participant look at a project map of the West River during the Local Cooperation Agreement signing ceremony in this Jan. 17, 1989 photo.*

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